Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1053

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, WB, GE, GW, UR

SUBJECT: SCHUETZ RESPONSE TO COMMUNIST ASSERTIONS:

TOO MUCH, TOO OFTEN?

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN ABOUT A WEEK SINCE LAST SIGNIFICANT SOVIET/GDR PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT OR PRIVATE PROTEST ABOUT WESTERN POSITIONS IN BERLIN OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE, ANSERING VOLLEYS CONTINUING UNABATED FROM BERLIN WITH GOVERNING MAYOR TAKING LEAD TO POINT THAT HE HAS RECEIVED PARTY ENDORSEMENT FROM CDU SPOKESMEN. RESULT HAS BEEN TO FEED SPECULATION ABOUT GROWING RIFT BETWEEN SCHUETZ AND CHANCELLOR. END SUMMARY.

2. FOR ABOUT A WEEK, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND HAS FALLEN OUT OF RUNNING DEBATE ON DIVERGENT EAST-WEST POSITIONS RE BERLIN STATUS AND INTERPRETATION OF QA, AND WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY FURTHER SIGNIFICANT SOVIET/GDR RELATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATEMENTS OR PROTESTS. NEVERTHELESS, GOVERNING MAYOR

SCHUETZ HAS TAKEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO RESTATE HIS VIEW THAT EASTERN CHARGES WERE UNFOUNDED AND IT WAS INCUMBENT ON ALL PARTIES FAITHFULLY TO OBSERVE QA AND FOR WESTERN SIDE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES THEREIN. HIS REMARKS, REDUCED TO LITURGY, WERE MOST RECENTLY VOICED AT JUNE 11 OPENING OF DEUTSCHE STAEDTETAG. SUGGESTION IN LATEST EDITION OF SPD PAPER VORWAERTS BY DETMAR CRAMER, RIAS CHIEF IN BONN, THAT SCHUETZ WAS ENGAGED IN OVERKILL WAS DISMISSED BY SENAT SPOKESMAN STRUVE WITH REMARK THE VORWAERTS WAS NOT OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO WARRANT FURTHER COMMENT. CRAMER HAD CRITICIZED SCHUETZ FOR RESPONDING TO EVERY UTTERANCE OF SOVIET/GDR OFFICIALS AND MEDIA THAT APPEARED TO CHALLENGE WESTERN VIEW OF QA; CRAMER IMPLIED THIS VIEW WAS SHARED BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT.

- 3. WHILE SCHUETZ'S REMARKS COULD IN ANY EVENT BE EXPECTED TO ADD TO SPECULATION ABOUT GROWING RIFT BETWEEN HIM AND SCHMIDT IN REGARD TO BERLIN ISSUES, FUEL HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN ADDED TO FIRE BY COMMENT ON PART OF BERLIN CDU DUNDESTAG DEPUTY WOHLRABE THAT HIS PARTY "WOULD ALWAYS SUPPORT SCHUETZ DESPITE DIFFERENT POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS WHEN IT CAME TO THE NEED FOR A COMMON FRONT AGAINST THREATS TO THE FREEDOM AND VIABILITY OF THE CITY." WOHLRABE CHARGED THAT VORWAERTS ARTICLE WAS PART OF FEDERAL SPD CAMPAIGN TO SILENCE SCHUETZ BECAUSE HIS CRITICISM OF COMMUNISTS FOR THEIR VIOLATIONS AND MISUSE OF QA RAN COUNTER TO BONN'S EFFORT TO CURRY FAVOR WITH EAST BERLIN AND MOSCOW.
- 4. IN MEANTIME, FURTHER ORCHESTRATION FOR SCHUETZ'S THEME WAS PROVIDED IN UNANIMOUS STATEMENT OF BUNDESTAG COMMITTEE ON INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS AT CONCLUSION OF ITS MEETING IN BERLIN JUNE 12, EMPHASIZING NEED TO MAINTAIN FEDERAL PRESENCE IN BERLIN AND EXTEND BERLINBONN TIES TO EXTENT PERMITTED BY QA. COMMITTEE ALSO WELCOMED RECENT BERLIN DECLARATION BY FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS

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5. COMMENT: AS MISSION HAS PREVIOUSLY HAD OCCASION TO COMMENT, EVER SINCE SCHUETZ ABANDONED HIS BONN AMBITIONS ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO AND DETERMINED TO STAY AS MAYOR, HE HAS FOUND IT POLITICALLY SOUND TO TAKE STRONG LINE IN COUNTERING SOVIET/GDR STATEMENTS ON QA.WE BELIEVE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE TO INDICATE SCHMIDT IS IRRITATED BY WHAT HE REGARDS AS SCHUETZ'S OVERLY AGGRESSIVE STYLE AND

THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO, APPARENTLY STRAINED AS RESULT OF HANDLING BY SCHUETZ OF LORENZ KIDNAPPING, ARE NOT YET MENDED. ON OTHER HAND, SCHUETS RECENTLY REMARKED TO MISSION OFFICERS THAT HE AND CHANCELLOR "ARE FRIENDS ONCE AGAIN." WHATEVER THE SCHUETZ-SCHMIDT RELATIONSHIP, WE DOUBT WHETHER FORMER WILL BE DETERRED BY OUTSIDE CRITICISM (OR CDU SUPPORT). BERLINGERS, PARTICULARLY MEMBERS OF COALITION GOVERNMENT, BELIEVE SCHMIDT DOES NOT APPRECIATE BERLIN SITUATION AS FULLY AS BRANDT DID, AND NOTE THAT WERE SCHUETZ NOT TO REPLY TO EASTERN CHALLENGES, THIS WOULD RENDER HIM VULNERABLE TO CDU AND OTHER RIGHT-WING POLITICAL CRITICISM. GEORGE

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